

THE MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MARION AND McDOWELL COUNTY

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Variety Show And Bond Sale Draws Large Crowd; Interest Increased With Sales Amounting To \$66,350

Total Sales For The County Now Listed At \$150,000, Including \$32,000 E Bonds.

Efforts toward reaching McDowell county's \$365,000 goal for the Sixth War Loan campaign continues with interest, increased by the bond sale Tuesday night following the variety show staged in the high school auditorium and presented by a group of entertainers from the Army Redistribution Center at Asheville.

As a result of the bond sale, a total of \$66,350 was placed to McDowell county's credit on its quota, it was stated yesterday by J. F. Snipes and J. N. Morris, co-chairmen of the campaign.

Figures released by the Federal Reserve bank yesterday showed that sales in the county had reached a total of \$150,000 through December 2, the chairmen announced. Sale of E bonds up to December 2 amounted to \$32,000.

The chairmen stated that, in spite of the efforts of all co-workers, the drive has been slow in gathering momentum, but that they are confident that the county will meet its quota of \$365,000.

However, it is evident with over one-half of the war loan period already passed, that to meet the quota will require much work on the part of volunteer bond salesmen and purchases of bonds by a great number of individuals in this county.

The money from the Sixth War loan is needed, and needed now, to supply the army and navy dealing the knockout blows to the enemy on so many fronts. Now, as never before, is the time to back the attack with your dollars.

The variety show sponsored by the woman's division of the war loan campaign, drew a capacity audience. Featured by laughs and good music, the show was well received.

Presented by the special services division of the Army Redistribution station, its cast was made up of both service folk and civilians.

Before starting the regular program the band rendered patriotic music.

The show was in charge of Lt. Edward Hill and had an excellent master of ceremonies, S-Sgt. Don Latorre. An eight piece orchestra was featured throughout the program and among the actors particularly applauded by the audience were Billy Smith, an eleven year old colored boy from Asheville who comes with the show through the courtesy of George Vanderbilt hotel, Pvt. Max Vegoda, who got plenty of laughs for his portrayal of Madame Razuzu, an opera singer, Sgt. Philip Kaplan (Sparky Kaye) comedian, Pfc. Nicholas Olivia and Miss Corky Bagwell who make up the Olivia dance team, and Miss Bernice Williams who sang popular songs and an original version of "Say A Prayer For The Boys Over There," translating it into a war bond rally song.

Oscar Turner and the Farm Boys were presented through the courtesy of W. W. N. C. and are well known throughout this section for their daily program on the North Carolina Farm hour.

S-Sgt. Don Latorre, one of the original Dead End Kids and a veteran of radio, stage and screen gave two skits, one as a member of a tough gang of young hoodlums and another of a soldier's experience in the army. Sgt. Latorre is back from sixteen months overseas and while he was over there played with such well known shows as those of Jack Benny, Nelson Eddy, Frederic March and Joe E. Brown.

Lt. Hill gave a most interesting and convincing account of some of his experiences overseas and he introduced Lt. Colonel Carl J. De Prizio, and Pvt. Nicholas Olivia who also related some of their experiences while serving overseas. All these men urged the people of McDowell county to reach the quota set for McDowell in the Sixth War Loan drive because they said "All quotas must be met to win this

war."

In the bond sale following the variety show many beautiful and useful articles, donated by the merchants and business firms of Marion, were auctioned off, with Charles Smith, Sr., acting as auctioneer.

OLD FORT CANNONEER SURVIVES HEAVY ENEMY SHELLING IN N. ITALY

Private St. Elmo Elliott of Old Fort, North Carolina recently survived a heavy enemy shelling in northern Italy while pinned to the ground in his small tent although shrapnel tore at least 15 holes in the canvas.

Elliott, a cannoneer in an artillery battalion of the 34th "Red Bull" infantry division in Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's Army, was in his tent about 30 yards from his howitzer when the Nazi shells started landing in the area.

"I couldn't get out of the tent," Elliott said. I had a foxhole at the gun pit, half filled with rain but it wasn't safe to run for it so I just stayed on the ground. Some of the shrapnel holes in the tent were as large as my fist, but I didn't get a scratch."

Elliott's wife, Mrs. Mildred Elliott, lives on Route 1, Old Fort.

JUNIOR RED CROSS DRIVE IN McDOWELL PROVES SUCCESSFUL

East Marion Elementary School led the entire county in funds contributed during the Junior Red Cross drive for membership. The drive, as a whole, was quite successful with practically every school becoming a member.

All county schools, both high school and elementary, joined with all but two with 100% membership. Pleasant Gardens led the county schools in contributions. In the city school system all joined except one school.

The interest in Junior Red Cross membership and work has been high in all schools in the county.

Mrs. W. A. Young, county chairman of Junior Red Cross, wishes to express her appreciation to those teachers in the various schools who helped make the drive a success.

The present project of the Junior Red Cross is helping to prepare Christmas boxes for Moore General Hospital. In February the local chapter will fill boxes to be sent to foreign countries to help with the rehabilitation program of our allies.

PLAY PRESENTED AT NEBO P. T. A. MEETING

At the regular meeting of the Nebo Parent-Teacher Association Thursday, November 30, many parents and teachers were entertained by a Book-Week play, "Magic in the Library," presented by students from the elementary and high school grades of the Nebo school. Following the play, four senior girls sang the song "Books to Sell."

Attractive exhibits from the English, French, Science, and Home Economics departments of the high school and the fifth grade of the elementary school were on display in the auditorium.

The tenth grade won the attendance count for having the highest percent of parents present.

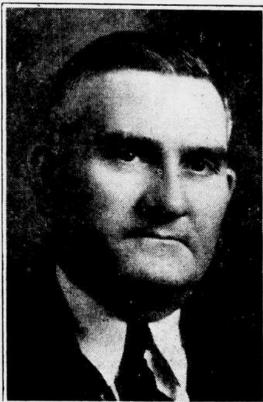
After the business session the social committee took charge of the program.

FOUR NEGROES SENT TO CAMP CROFT LAST WEEK

The following colored registrants were sent to Camp Croft last Friday for pre-induction examinations, according to a report released by the local draft board this week: Eugene Corpening, Irvin Collins Simmons, Ernest Gordon Burnett and Bishop Homer Greenlee.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO MEET

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the Community building.



REMARKABLE RECORD—I. L. Caplan, above, member of the board of county commissioners, has attended every monthly meeting of the board since he was elected to this office ten years ago. He took the oath of office for another term last Monday. He has served as chairman of the board for eight years.

MERCURY DROPS TO LOW OF 16 DEGREES HERE

The mercury dropped to 13 degrees here early last Sunday morning, setting a new record minimum temperature for the date, according to Hudson Brown, official U. S. weather observer here. Streams and ponds were coated with ice in the first real freeze of the season.

The low temperature came as a climax to the season's first cold wave, which moved into this area Thursday, sending the mercury to 18 above Friday morning. The highest temperature for the day was 42. The low reading Saturday morning was 23, high 39. Monday morning the mercury went down to 16 degrees, but rose to 50 during the afternoon.

MERCHANTS MEETING TONIGHT AT 8 O'CLOCK

The regular monthly meeting of the Marion Merchants Association will be held Thursday evening, Dec. 7, at 8 o'clock in the Community building.

A discussion will be held on the North Carolina tax law. A good program has been prepared, including songs, games, etc., and a large crowd is expected to attend.

Announcement was also made by the secretary that the grocery stores would close two more Wednesday afternoons preceding Christmas week—December 13 and 20.

COLLIS RETURNS FROM DUTY IN THE PACIFIC

William C. Collis, Aviation Mechanist's Mate First Class, U.S.N.R., of Route 3, Marion, has returned from a tour of combat duty in the Pacific, where he was attached to the "Rippers"—fighter squadron of Air Group Two.

Collis, a maintenance man aboard the squadron's carrier, was among those who worked night and day to keep the planes in fighting shape, and thus to insure the success of the carrier strikes against Jap aircraft, shipping and shore installations.

Before entering the Navy, he attended Pleasant Gardens high school. He has four brothers who also are in the armed forces.

16 REGISTRANTS SENT TO INDUCTION CENTER

According to a release from McDowell county draft board, sixteen registrants were sent to an induction center last Wednesday. Those leaving were: Joe Ray Hollifield, James Logan Lane, David Harold Kanipe, J. D. Hayes, Glenn Mitchell Burgin, James Calvin Willis, Robert James Elkins, Julius Leroy Condrey, Spencer Olin Simmons, Allen Charles Buckner, Dean Oakland Poate, Jack Bruce Burleson, Harry Allen Baker, Starlin Bennett Sowers, Conrad Baker and Dock Edward Good.

COURT OF HONOR WILL BE HELD FRIDAY NIGHT

The regular monthly court of honor for McDowell county Boy Scouts will be held at the First Methodist church in Marion Friday night, Dec. 8, at 7:30 o'clock.

Officials Take Oath Of Office, Begin New Terms

Caplan Re-elected Chairman Of Board; R. W. Proctor Retained As Attorney.

The county officials elected on November 7th were sworn in at the commissioners room in the court house Monday morning by Clerk of Court Fred Moody. Officials taking the oath of office were I. L. Caplan, C. A. Workman and C. L. Holland, re-elected county commissioners for a term of two years, and Zeb L. Lackey, re-elected register of deeds for a term of four years.

J. C. Rabb, member of the house of representatives, will take the oath of office after he arrives in Raleigh for the opening of the session of the General Assembly in January.

I. L. Caplan was re-elected chairman of the board of county commissioners and purchasing agent. R. W. Proctor was re-appointed county attorney, and Mrs. Mary Burgin was named tax supervisor for the county.

Tax lists for the ten townships in the county were appointed as follows:

Brackets—George F. Rhom. Crooked Creek—Harlow Noblitt. Dysartsville—C. Y. Pyatt. Glenwood—Mrs. Grace Rayburn. Higgins—J. H. Simpson. Marion—G. W. Giles; Mrs. Pearl Davis, assistant lister. Monfords Cove—Mrs. M. R. Nanney.

Nebo—L. C. Parks. North Cove—Rom J. Brown. Old Fort—E. T. Burgin. Tax listing will begin the first week in January and will continue through the month.

Jurors were drawn for the January term of Superior court as follows:

Pat Dale, J. Kenneth Poteat, Walter Early, O. C. Gibbs, Fred G. Knupp, C. K. Godfrey, C. C. McCall, R. O. Wiley, Don M. Sartin, Leroy Bradley, T. H. Lawing, Cecil B. Dobson, Anderson Williams, George Cox, E. H. Good, A. L. Price, W. G. Best, Geo. A. Bradley, John D. Jaynes, Hardy Murphy, G. W. Giles, Walter McGee, Ben R. Elliott, N. F. Steppe, Jr., Sam E. Tilson, T. E. Blaylock, L. L. Reel, Clyde Davis, T. A. Witherow, D. S. Ayers, E. C. Bost, Sr., C. R. Vess, John M. Hensley, W. G. Lonon, Fred Webb, J. M. Seagle, Ernest Christy, Ira L. Knupp, R. H. Walker.

MRS. JAY ANNOUNCES START OF BLUE STAR BRIGADE

Mrs. Mack Jay, chairman of the Woman's division of the War Finance committee of this county, has announced that individuals interested in joining the Blue Star Brigade for the sixth war loan drive, should get in touch with her immediately.

The brigade is consisted of those who have sold ten or more bonds to ten or more different subscribers and as more bonds are sold the individuals rank in the brigade will go up. Ten bonds are the minimum that can be sold to join the brigade and the person selling this amount of bonds will receive a pin and the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Rules and enrollment blanks for joining the brigade may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Jay.

STORES TO CLOSE TWO DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Marion Merchants Association has announced that all stores of Marion will be closed two days for the Christmas holidays. Due to the fact that Christmas comes on Monday, these days will be Christmas Day and the following Tuesday.

NEW PLUMBING SHOP

Announcement is made in this issue of The Progress that Harris Bros. will open a stove and plumbing works business in the Morgan building on State street about December 15. They will also carry a stock of new and used stoves and do general repair work, it is announced.

Ten Killed And Four Injured In Auto Collision Near Morganton At Early Hour Saturday Morning

LT. HILL SPEAKER AT KIWANIS MEETING

The Marion Kiwanis club was host to forty officers and soldiers from the Asheville Army Redistribution Center at its weekly meeting Tuesday evening. The meeting was held at the Community building and the president, R. W. Twitty, presided.

Hugh Beam presented the guests, and among those introduced to the club was J. F. Snipes and J. N. Morris, co-chairmen of the McDowell County War Finance committee. Mr. Beam also presented Mrs. Mac Jay, chairman of the woman's division of the War Finance committee. After the presentation of local guests, Mr. Beam introduced Lt. Hill, of the Army Redistribution Center at Asheville, who addressed the group briefly.

Lt. Hill told the group that immediately after the dinner his officers and men would put on a show of varied attractions at the high school auditorium in connection with the Sixth War Loan drive. Lt. Hill also listed some of the experiences he and his men had had on various battle fronts.

GEORGE GARDNER FOUND DEAD ON RUTHERFORD HIGHWAY FRIDAY NIGHT

The body of George Washington (Bub) Gardner, 49, of the Dysartsville section of McDowell county, was found on the Marion-Rutherford highway about one mile south of Marion last Friday night about 8:30 o'clock, and officers who made an investigation said he apparently was killed by an automobile.

John Cole of Marion reported to Sheriff Grady Nichols and Coroner S. J. Westmoreland that his automobile struck Mr. Gardner, but that he was lying on the road at the time, the officers stated.

Mr. Cole was released on bond of \$1,000 after a warrant was issued by the sheriff charging him with assault with deadly weapon with car resulting in death.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Pleasant Hill Methodist church by Rev. H. W. Bell.

Mr. Gardner is survived by his wife and mother, Mrs. W. E. Gardner, Route 1, Marion; four brothers, Arthur, of Nealsville, Robert, John and Luther, of Marion, Route 1, and four sisters, Mrs. W. E. Bailly, Mrs. J. H. Poteet and Mrs. Willard Lewis, of Marion, and Mrs. A. F. Finley of Nebo.

LT. HARTLEY RETURNS FROM DUTY OVERSEAS

First Lt. Louis E. Hartley, of Nebo, has arrived at Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 2 in Miami, Florida, for reassignment processing after completing a tour of duty outside the continental United States.

Medical examinations and classification interviews at this post, one of five redistribution stations operated by the AAF Personnel Distribution Command for AAF returnee officers and enlisted men, will determine his new assignment. He will remain there about two weeks, much of which will be devoted to rest and recreation.

Lieutenant Hartley, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hartley, Vilas, N. C., was a bombardier in the European theater. His wife resides in Nebo. The lieutenant received his B. S. degree at Appalachian State Teachers College at Boone, N. C., in 1939.

PVT. THOS R. NORMAN NOW AT KEESLER FIELD

Having arrived at Keesler Field, Miss., Pvt. Thomas R. Norman, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Norman, of Clinchfield, is now being examined by the AAF Training Command Unit to determine his qualifications as a pre-aviation cadet.

Flying officer training as a pilot, bombardier or navigator will be given Pvt. Norman upon successful completion of the processing he is undergoing at Keesler Field.

Three Servicemen Victims Of Accident; Worst Two-Car Crash In State's History.

North Carolina's worst automobile accident took ten lives and left four seriously injured in a head-on collision of two old model sedans eight miles west of Morganton Saturday morning.

Six were killed outright and four died later at hospital in Morganton and Marion.

The remaining four, still in hospitals in Morganton, Marion and Swannanoa, will likely recover from injuries received when the two autos roared down from opposite hills to meet at the foot in a devastating smashup at 2 a. m. at what is known as Bottom Drop on Highway No. 70.

The dead:

Harold Moran Mull, 25, of Morganton.

Billy Richard Mull, 18, of Glen Alpine.

Pfc. Thomas Shuping, 23, of Route 1, Morganton.

Charles William Mayfield, 26, of Morganton.

Doris Jean Shook, 16, of Glen Alpine.

Warren B. Merrill, 21, of Route 1, Nebo.

Charles Benfield, Jr., 16, of Glen Alpine.

Pvt. Raymond A. Shoupe, 20, of Route 4, Morganton.

Lucille Hoyle, 23, of Glen Alpine.

Clayton Shook, 30, of Glen Alpine.

The injured:

Carl L. Wilson, 24, of Route 1, Morganton, skull fractured. Wounded veteran, he was transferred yesterday from Marion General Hospital to Army's Moore General Hospital at Swannanoa.

Pauline Hoyle, 16, of Glen Alpine, in Marion hospital, with both legs broken.

James (Bud) Powell, 18, of Morganton, in Grace Hospital with broken leg and cuts, six teeth knocked out.

Ray Abernathy, 17, of Route 4, Morganton, in Grace Hospital with shock and severe shapeup.

Of the dead, the Mulls are brothers, and Clayton Shook is an uncle of Doris Jean Shook. Pauline Hoyle, who was injured, is a sister of the dead Hoyle girl.

With two occupants from each car still alive, six persons met death in one auto and four in the other.

Killed instantly or dying at the scene before they could be removed were the Shook girl, Benfield, Mayfield, Merrill, Shuping and Harold Moran Mull.

Lucille Hoyle died at 6 a. m. at Marion General Hospital, and Billy Richard Mull died at exactly the same time at Grace Hospital. Pvt. Shoupe died at 7:15 a. m. at the hospital in Morganton.

Clayton Shook, the tenth victim, died at 8:45 o'clock Sunday morning at Grace Hospital.

A coroner's jury found that the ten deaths resulted from "careless and reckless driving" on the part of both operators, but was unable to determine who the drivers were.

Charles Benfield, Jr., was the son of Charles and Virginia Benfield of Glen Alpine and was employed by the Pitts Lumber Company. He is survived by his parents and five brothers and sisters. The funeral (Continued on last page)

COOKY DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON NEXT WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

Wednesday, December 13, will be observed as "Cookie Day" for all men and women in service. An effort will be made, it is announced, to supply approximately 10,000 men and women at Moore General Hospital, Oteen, Kenilworth, Sand Hills and Lake Lure with home-made cookies.

The cookies may be left at either Blanton's store or Bell's store where they will be picked up and delivered to Moore General hospital.